IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following paragraph on page 1, line 6 (before the "Field of the Invention" paragraph):

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/375,453 titled "System and Method for Color Characterization with Applications in Color Measurement and Color Matching", filed August 17, 1999, whose inventors were Siming Lin and Dinesh Nair.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 25, with the following replacement paragraph:

In step 416 the saturation value of the pixel is examined. If the saturation of a pixel is very low, different colors are not distinguishable and the pixel may immediately be categorized as either black, gray, or white. When a pixel's saturation is close to the minimum saturation level, the pixel may be graphically represented near the origin of the circle of Figures 5B. Step 416 determines if a pixel's saturation is lower than a selected saturation threshold 604 (Figure 5B), i.e., is very close to 0. In one embodiment, the Saturation Threshold 604 has a default value of 10 on a scale from 0 to 255 (this corresponds to a default value of .04 on a scale from 0 to 1). If the saturation level of a pixel is below the saturation threshold, the pixel does not require further saturation analysis or the hue analysis of step [[418]]420 so the process advances to step 422.